

# Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM

## Series objective

The church in Galatia was divided over issues of observing Jewish laws and regulations according to the Torah. Many leaders within this church were requiring non-Jewish Christians to live by Jewish laws that missed the main point of the Gospel message in that Jesus fulfilled the law and saved all who believe in him. As has always been true when people trust in Jesus as the Messiah, His life, death, and resurrection become the basis of their salvation. As a result, they become new creations. The book of Galatians reminds Jesus' followers to embrace the Gospel message of the crucified Messiah, that justifies all people through faith and empowers them to live as Jesus did.<sup>1</sup>



## Overview of Chapter 4

Verses 1 – 7	Living as Sons of God (cont. from Chapter 3)
Verses 8 – 20	Paul's exhortation to live for Christ
Verses 21 – 31	Contrasting Hagar and Sarah

## Questions

1. How should recognizing that we are no longer slaves to sin (and the Law) impact the way that we live our supposed to live?
2. In verse 15 Paul talks about the Galatians losing their joy.
  - a. In your life, what causes you to lose joy? How would others describe you (i.e., do others consider you full of joy)? I recently heard Robert Jeffers of First Baptist Dallas describe "enthusiasm" as the combination of the Greek words "in" (εν) and "God" (Θεος), which I though further reinforces that as Christians we need to be positive and enthusiastic, which are characteristics of being filled with joy.
  - b. If the answer to (a) involves things you do, why do you do them (or perhaps continue to do them)?
  - c. How important is joy in the Christian life?
3. With all of the current activity in the Middle East, verses 21-31 that contrast the sons of Hagar and Sarah are worth discussing.
  - a. In your own words, describe the story involving Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar.

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<sup>1</sup> Bibleproject.com

- b. Read Genesis 16:11-12. What was said to Hagar of Ishmael and who said it?
  
  - c. Read Genesis 17:19-22 and Genesis 22:15-18. Contrast the words stated to Abraham regarding the promises through the line of Isaac.
4. Part of the challenge in the era of grace is that it is easy to become distant from God. Read Numbers 8:6-20. How are you doing in terms of remembering the Lord? If you are not doing well, why not?

Next week's study

Read Galatians Chapter 5. Meditate on verse 22 that discusses the Fruit of the Spirit. Look at your life and take an inventory of what you see.

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Provided in the figure below is a graphic showing the three facets of salvation. I want to be very clear – this is NOT a progressive salvation, or stages of salvation that we see in cults where people work to earn their salvation. Rather, there are three distinct facets of salvation we experience as Believers. Once we make a profession of faith and are justified, we are eternally secure. From that point forward until death (or the Rapture of the Church), we are being sanctified.

To better understand justification, sanctification, and glorification, consider the following:

- Justification – saved from the **PENALTY** of sin
- Sanctification – saved from the **POWER** of sin
- Glorification – saved from the **PRESENCE** of sin



I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 3:14

The following verses discuss how the three facets of salvation.

- Justification (Romans 5:1 and 8:33)
- Sanctification (2 Timothy 2:15-26)
- Glorification (John 12:12-16, Romans 8:30, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12)

Most teaching on salvation does not distinguish between what can be called the *facets of salvation*; specifically, failing to distinguish between justification and sanctification. Failing to make a distinction between justification and sanctification at best results in confusion when discussing salvation, while at worst creates a works-based salvation that is common-place among the cults.